

Mohaff's History of Greek Literature

literature found their comfort in far different be-
 liefs, which could not be made public. These
 heterodox opinions, however, could not but make
 themselves felt, inasmuch as nearly all the lit-
 erary men of every age were inducted into the
 same religious and political creeds, and the
 orthodoxy in religion the identification of vari-
 ous gods acted on the early thinkers of Miletus,
 and set them to seeking unity in the substance
 or matter of the world. The doctrine of Thales
 for example, seems to have been that moisture
 was the origin of all things, and this doctrine
 was variously compounded, and this was
 directly analogous to the cult of Dionysus
 the god of moisture, to whom all growth
 and fruitfulness were ascribed, and who,
 in combination with Apollo, the god of
 music, was worshipped as the creator of life,
 and generated all the conditions of change
 in nature. Successing theorists found mois-
 ture too coarse a primeval substance, and sub-
 stituted the all-evolving and all-absorbing
 ether, the more subtle air or imperceptible
 fire. Others, again, conceived of matter as
 grosser, advanced beyond the conception of mere
 matter, and sought their single principle, either
 in number, with its eternal and certain laws,
 or in some higher abstract unity, which embraced
 all the elements of existence. The doctrine
 of Aristotle on literature was twofold; first, the
 matter of thought became worth recording,
 apart from its literary form and knowledge, as
 such was henceforth to be pursued aside from
 elegance in diction. Hence prose literature
 was the result, and the poet was to be judged
 by his remembering at all, except laws
 and simple inscriptions, had been couched
 at once sprang up, whether, namely the new
 medium should aim at perfect lucidity or
 be content with the more or less of truth and
 answers were returned according to the nature of
 the subject treated. Thus Herodotus, as we
 shall see, pursuing to trace the course of
 actual events, sought and attained a lucidity
 of expression which has been the aim of the
 historian, whose example is more pertinent
 to our present purpose, propounded very dif-
 ferent principles of diction. It is certain that the
 philosophical theories of his predecessors con-
 sidered the secret teaching of the mysteries
 of things, that all things that are, are in the
 opinion and ordinary sense like the true and
 deeper meaning of experience, that there are
 riddles and difficulties in human knowledge,
 many things hard to understand and still
 harder to teach, and that the philosopher, who
 was a remarkable innovator, who dis-
 covered that all organism grows, and that all
 growth implies motion, evinced a profound

The reputation of Xenophon has suffered a good deal in the searching light of modern investigation, and the conclusions supported by the weight of authority are stated, not without some regret, by the author of these volumes. The *Hellenica*, the most valuable of the books of the Hellenica are by far the most trustworthy of Xenophon's contributions to history. At the date of their composition, he had not developed the personal vanity which makes him glorify and justify all his own actions, and he is therefore more objective in the story of the Spartans, and especially of their foremost man, Agesilaus, which infected his subsequent historical writings. It is true that even here Grote is not always satisfied with his version of events, but Professor Mahaffy, who is thus more critical, justifies them in the narrative should rather be ascribed to a conflict of evidence than to any want of candor on the part of the historian. On the other hand, in the later books of the *Hellenica* he meets with the earliest specimen of that debased historiography which has since been taken with a collateral object, and in which truth is deliberately sacrificed to rhetorical and partisan effect. In that part of the narrative which follows the battle of Coronea, when the defeated Athenians were being driven off the field, and when the latter was completely humbled, and the splendid abilities of Pelopidas and Epaminondas, the disgraceful partiality of the author becomes painfully apparent. He is palpably engaged in writing up Agesilaus, a second-rate victor, and Epaminondas, the great military genius of his age. Hence several victories of Thebans over Spartans are quietly omitted in his text, while at Leuctra, and elsewhere the names of Theban commanders are ignored and the Spartan leaders are glorified. In describing the campaign which ended with Mantinea, that a fairly tribute to Epaminondas is wrong from him in terms which show he sought to detract from the popular opinion by no better arguments than petty carping, unjust insinuations, and the like. It is a pity that the regrettable because we have in Xenophon one of the few men competent, had he been so disposed, to have informed us concerning the innovations, in both tactics and strategy, due to the great Theban, and strikingly displayed in his brilliant battle, which was the ruin of a series of ancient Romeish in its disposition.

Prof. Mahaffy observes that few modern critics exhibit as the thoroughness of Grote in faithfully analysing as a thoroughly complete and trusting account of the events of the Peloponnesian war. Not a few of the most competent and authoritative inquirers, and among them Col-

teachers. That is to say, they travelled about from city to city, because in those days of independent municipalities it was not convenient for them to go to a special university town where they would have had to live. And, therefore, as they could not go to their schools, professors, the latter must needs come to them. The Sophistic training, in a word, corresponds very closely to what we should now call an itinerant education. It was a kind of "free-lance" education, as spoken of much by the sophists, "an Oxford man." Morally, these roving professors were neither better nor worse than the public they addressed, and, from an intellectual point of view, they were a good deal better. They were men of good sense, and they were men of good morals and temperate habits, there is remarked in all of them a certain ostentation and expensive style of dress and living, which, in societies so intolerant of aliens as were the Greek communities, was a mark of distinction. They were, however, important, and which doubtless absorbed the profits. Honored and fêted by the richer youth, suspected and mostly despised by the older, more staid, and conservative folk, the Sophists were, says Prof. Maury, to have afforded a parallel to the artists of the present day.

The Students' Hume.

A useful contribution to school and college literature is a compressed edition of Hume's *History of England*, revised, corrected, and brought down to the Treaty of Berlin by Dr. J. S. Brewer (Harpers). One part of his life has been executed by the editor with considerable skill, and the general arrangement seems to be well worked over with many of the appliances of modern scholarship and research; and with the general narrative has been greatly condensed, new materials of importance have been incorporated with it, especially in relation to Celtic, Roman, and Anglo-Saxon history. Mr. Brewer differs from Mr. Fennell in almost every competent inquirer in his notion the extent to which the Celtic and Roman civilization survived the successive Teutonic invasions. He thinks that the Saxon conquests, and the consequent Teutonic invasions, did not break up society, and that the Saxon State was built, not upon a *tabula rasa*, but the ruins of the past. Such a view, of course, might be advocated with entire propriety before an historical society, but, considering his position, it is not surprising that the authorities, we question whether it should be

In his chapter on the "Dunciad," Mr. Stephens points out that Bentley is the only man of genius, and Colly Cibber the only one possessing good second-rate abilities, of whom Pope has spoken in terms implying gross misappreciation. With all his faults, he was a real judge of literature, and has made far fewer blunders than such men as Addison, Gray, Johnson, infinitely superior to him in generosity of feeling toward the living. It is difficult to explain the assault on Bentley, remembering his own verdict on Pope's *Hor-*

Beautiful Sun, with your kisses warm
 Making the little ones dance for glee
 Soothing and healing the crippled form,
 Robbing sad hearts of their misery;
 Crowning the heads of the aged pair,
 Turning their silver locks to gold;
 Ripening the grain spread out so fair,
 Bringing the farmer wealth untold,
 Beautiful Sun! Beautiful Sun!
 Speed on your mission from morn till eve;
 If you but attain this goal is won,
 'Tis to behold our dearth no more's menace.

Killing Himself for a Girl of Thirteen
From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., June 14.—(Globe-Democrat.) A Mexican boy of 16, named Carlos Cortez, shot himself last night for a girl of 13, and married her hand in marriage. Her father objected on account of the age of his daughter, and the circumstances of the shooting. The latter was a very beautiful girl, who had been known to shoot her first pistol muzzle of a gun near his heart, and explained the act with his left foot. This symptom caused the boy to believe that he would die, and he decided to end his life by instant death. He then fired, assuming that he would be disappointed. The mother of the girl and

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on account of the age of his bride,
distances of friends. The latter grew dis-
tasteful to him, and he was shot dead
at Friday morning last. He was shot
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is left. The girl was crying at the
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